

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 06497 181714Z

53

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-05 /075 W

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P 171745Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8064

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 6497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, BL

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO SANTA CRUZ

1. EMBOFF WAS INFORMED TODAY BY RELIABLE SOURCE THAT PRESIDENT BANZER DEPARTED FOR SANTA CRUZ THIS MORNING IN ANSWER TO A SUMMONS FROM THE HEAD OF THE SANTA CRUZ DEVELOPMENT CORP. THE EXONOMIC SITUATION IN SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN DETERIORATING IN RECENT WEEKS, AND THIS FACT, COMBINED WITH A RECENT GOB DECISION TO DENY FURTHER CREDIT TO COTTON GROWERS IN THE SANTA CRUZ AREA, BROUGHT DISCONTENT THERE TO A HEAD AND CAUSED THE SANTA CRUZ OFFICIAL MENTIONED ABOVE TO PLACE A CALL TO BANZER AND DEMAND THAT HE APPEAR IN PERSON IN SANTA CRUZ TO RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY'S SOURCE, THE PEOPLE IN SANTA CRUZ ARE READY TO TAKE UP ARMS TO FORCE THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION TO THEIR PROBLEM, AND OFFICIALS OF THE SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT HAVE TOLD THE 8TH DIVISION COMMANDER IN SANTA CRUZ THAT HIS FORCES WOULD BE INSUFFICIENT TO CONTAIN AN ARMED INSURRECTION. PRESIDENT BANZER ALLEGEDLY TOLD SOURCE THAT HE WAS GOING TO SANTA CRUZ AS A HOSTAGE, THAT HE HAD NO IMMEDIATE SOLUTIONS TO OFFER IN SANTA CRUZ, AND THAT HE WOULD TELL AUTHORITIES THERE THAT IF THEY WANTED HIS RESIGNATION, HE WOULD OBLIGE THEM.

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3. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT BANZER AGREED TO GO IN PERSON

RATHER THAN SEND A CABINET MEMBER OR SOME BANKING OFFICIAL TO
DISCUSS THE MATTER IN SANTA CRUZ IS A GOOD INDICATION OF THE
CONCERN HE HAS OVER THE DEVELOPING SITUATION IN THE EASTERN
PROVINCE. HE KNOWS THE PEOPLE AND THE POLITICS OF SANTA CRUZ
AS WELL AS ANYONE IN BOLIVIA AND IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME
THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE THIS CRISIS SUCCESSFULLY.
PARKER

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NNN

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To: STATE
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